REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-41 were rejected. Claims 1-37 and 39-40 were rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sallberg (2001/0043588) in view of Emery et

al. (6519242). Claims 38 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Sallberg in view of Emery as addressed in claims 36, 37, 39 and 40, and further in view of

Hartmaier (6304753). Independent claims 1, 12, 23, 26, 29, 32, 34, 36 and 39 have been

amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As now clarified by the amendments to the independent claims, a common feature of

each of the rejected claims is that service feature information for wireless devices can be

provided without use of a VLR by storing such information in a centralized location associated

with a data network, namely, a feature server located in a home network that is accessible via the

data network. Note that the home network can be a wireless network or could be part of the data

network itself, as shown by the three feature server examples in Applicants' Fig. 2. Regardless

of the nature of the feature server's home network, service features for wireless devices are

obtained by sending service feature requests from a wireless telecommunication network into the

data network, e.g., via a wireless network switch that is connected to the data network, for

delivery to the feature server in the home network. This avoids having to maintain VLRs and the

overhead associated with the usual HLR/VLR intercommunication messaging.

The Sallberg reference lacks any teaching or suggestion of accessing a data network for

the purpose of obtaining wireless device service feature information. Rather, as stated on page 3,

lines 10-14 of Applicants' office action response filed on February 28, 2003:

"... all service feature administration in Sallberg is performed by way of the MSC/VLR 320 and the HLR 370 in a manner that is more or less conventional in a cellular telephone system."

The only data network shown in Sallberg is the "Internet" 390. Sallberg does not make use of the Internet to administer service features for wireless calls. Sallberg's only feature server (element 325) is part of the MSC/VLR 320 in the wireless network 305 and is accessed via conventional means without data network access.

Emery also fails to disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter. Emery is directed to an IP telephone system in which IP telephones can roam while changing their point of connection to a data network. IP telephone service is maintained by allowing the IP telephones to use different PSTN gateways (50, 110). Note that VLRs (120) are used in conventional fashion by Emery. There is no feature server located in a home network that is accessed via a data network by sending a service feature request into the data network from a wireless telephone network. No feature server can be seen on the data network side of Emory's diagrams, nor on the PSTN side.

Among the various data network entities shown in Emory, the only entities that are not telephones or Internet terminals are the gatekeepers (30, 110) (see Figs. 1-3). Their only function is to register the IP telephones for service and help them originate calls (see column 3, lines 37-61). The gatekeepers play no role when calls are terminated to the IP telephones (see column 3, line 61 – column 4, line 9). This is also true when the IP telephones are roaming (see column 4, line 12 – column 5, line 18). In no case does a gatekeeper receive a service feature request from a PSTN entity that sends the request via a data network. In fact, during call origination from an IP telephone, it is the gatekeeper that queries a PSTN HLR or VLR (see column 3, lines 52-53;

column 4, 49-52) unless call origination optimization is provided by storing IP-PSTN mappings in the gatekeeper (see column 4, lines 10-11), in which case no HLR or VLR query is required.
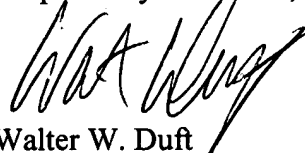
Among the various PSTN entities shown in Emory, there are also no feature servers as claimed by Applicants. Only conventional Central Office switches, HLRs, VLRs and PSTN gateways are shown. In no case do any of these entities receive a service feature request from a PSTN entity that sends the request via a data network.

Perhaps more importantly, recall that Applicants' claimed invention stems in part from a desire to eliminate the need for VLRs and the overhead associated with the usual HLR/VLR inter-communication performed to maintain database coherence. The claimed invention does this by providing an environment wherein a single a centralized data network feature server can handle per-call service feature requests from any telecommunications entity having the ability to send information packets over a data network (e.g., IP packets over the Internet). Emory is not of this genre because of the reference's use of a traditional HLR/VLR feature service scheme.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn, and that Notices of Allowability and Allowance be duly issued.

A Request for Continued Examination, along with the required fee, is enclosed with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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